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14 Aug 1985


MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing for GAO Staffers on Southwest Asian Threat Scenarios



1. On 14 August 1985, the following Directorate of Intelligence analysts briefed Al Huntington, Ralph Running, Steven Minniear, and Mark Pross, General Accounting Office, on Southwest Asian threat scenarios and regional reactions to US military prepositioning (see attached):



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2. Huntington gave me a detailed list of Agency publications that he wanted to read and said that the Departments of Defense and State, at the direction of the NSC, had not been forthcoming in providing him with information. I promised that I would look into the matter but did not promise him access to the documents. He said that he would get access in any case through one agency or another and that he was sorry the CIA was perennially so uncooperative on this point. Otherwise we were very forthcoming in our briefing sessions. 

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3. I think the  case applies here. We service standing committees with documents but not ad hoc policy or consultative bodies. GAO seems to fit the latter case. 

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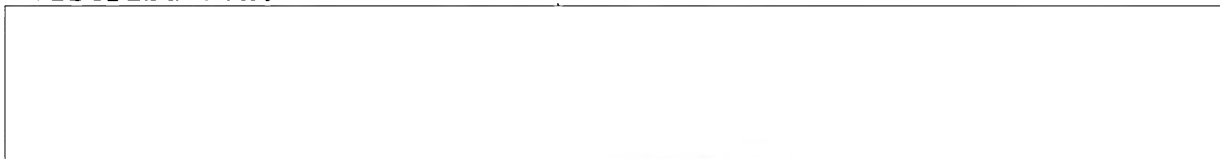
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Deputy Chief, Liaison Division, OLL

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GAO's Security and International Relations Group is conducting three interrelated assignments addressing U.S. objectives and military requirements in South and Southwest Asia and the Horn of Africa, with particular emphasis on U.S. security assistance programs (economic and military aid and military cash sales):

(1) GAO is reviewing U.S. requirements for and initiatives taken and proposed to obtain military access to Southwest Asia. While the review covers USCENTCOM's area of responsibility (19 countries) and Israel, the emphasis is on Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. Overall, we plan to address

U.S. objectives in the region,

✓ --threat scenarios for the region that may require U.S. involvement,

✓ --roles and capabilities of the regional states to deal with threat scenarios,

the use of security assistance as an "instrument of foreign policy" in obtaining U.S. military access to the region and/or cooperation of the regional states; and

✓ --regional states' capabilities to absorb and maintain U.S. provided military equipment.

(2) GAO has been requested by the Chairman, Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, to report on proposed major sales to the region and how they address U.S. objectives, their possible effect

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on the regional arms balance, and the military capabilities of the states involved.

(3) GAO has also been requested by a member of Congress to answer 13 questions concerning Saudi Arabia (attached). DOD/ISA/NESA is preparing a response to these, but GAO is also interested in CIA's view. Specifically, several questions (1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9) require evaluation of intelligence information to answer fully.

The GAO has assigned one review team to do the above work requirements. The scope of the work may require several meetings with CIA analysts. Because of time constraints, the GAO has requested that, if at all possible, the CIA meet with the GAO representatives during the week of August 12, 1985.

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